

## THE RHOPALOCERA OF LORD HOWE ISLAND.

BY G. A. WATERHOUSE.

In my opinion this portion of the fauna of Lord Howe Island has been sadly neglected, and the object of this paper is to aid investigations in the study of the distribution of species. There are three collections of Lord Howe Rhopalocera in Sydney at present. In 1889 in the second Memoir of the Australian Museum a list was given by Mr. A. S. Olliff comprising ten species; these specimens are in the Australian Museum. The second collection is a small one, consisting of five species, in the Macleay Museum, Sydney University. This collection is part of one made by Mr. E. H. Saunders in the early part of 1888, and contains three species not mentioned in Mr. Olliff's list. The remaining collection now in my possession was made by Miss Edith Nichols, a resident of the island, during the years 1896 and 1897, and consists of twelve species, five of which are not represented in either of the preceding collections. The list given by Mr. Olliff comprised all the information up to that date, so it will be seen that I have to record eight species new to the island.

All the species so far found on the island are common on the Australian continent, and are mostly strong winged insects, such as could easily have flown or been blown across the three hundred miles which intervene between the island and the mainland. One noticeable feature is the absence of any form of the subfamily *Satyrinæ*, but this is scarcely to be wondered at, as these butterflies are very quiet, and do not soar high, consequently they are not so prone to be distributed over wide areas by the agency of the wind. The *Hesperidæ* are only represented by one small species, and this is a matter of surprise, as the Lord Howe palms are the food-plants of several of the family near Sydney. The

genus best represented is *Danaïs*, three out of the five Australian species being recorded. In conclusion, I do not think this list comprises all the insects to be found on the island, and I hope at some future time to add to it by means of my friends on the island.

#### Subfamily DANAINÆ.

*DANAIS ERIPPUS*, *Cramer*.—This species is one that has almost certainly been blown on to the island. Its real home is in South America, from which place it has spread both eastwards and westwards; since 1870 it has been a very familiar insect about Sydney. In this same year, it is said to have been seen on Lord Howe Island.\*

*DANAIS PETILIA*, *Stoll*.—This species is mentioned by Mr. Olliff, and is also amongst those in my collection.

*DANAIS HAMATA*, *Macleay*.—One very fine specimen caught by Miss E. Nichols.

#### Subfamily NYMPHALINÆ.

*PYRAMEIS ITEA*, *Fabr.*—One specimen in my collection.

*PYRAMEIS CARDUI*, *Linn.*, var. *KERSHAWI*, *McCoy*.—Common.

*JUNONIA VELLIDA*, *Fabr.*—This is certainly the commonest butterfly on the island.

*DIADEMA BOLINA*, *Linn.*—Several specimens have been taken at various times.

*CHARAXES SEMPRONIUS*, *Fabr.*—The only record of this insect is by Mr. Olliff.

#### Family LYCÆNIDÆ.

*LUCIA LUCANUS*, *Fabr.*—One specimen taken by Mr. E. H. Saunders.

*LAMPIDES BÆTICUS*, *Linn.*—Rather common.

---

\* "Australian Butterflies," by A. S. Olliff, p. 10.

LAMPIDES ARGIADES, *Pallas*.—One specimen in my collection.

LYCENA LABRADUS, *Godart*.—Very common.

HOLOCHILA XANTHOSPILOS, *Hüb*.—One specimen taken by Mr. E. H. Saunders.

Subfamily PIERINÆ.

TERIAS SMILAX, *Don*.—Miss E. Nichols tells me that at times this insect is abundant.

CALLIDYRAS PYRANTHE, *Linn*.—One specimen in my collection.

Subfamily PAPILIONINÆ.

PAPILIO ERECTHEUS, *Don*.—This butterfly is very plentiful, and its larvæ are to be found feeding on the orange trees.

PAPILIO MACLEAYANUS, *Leach*.—When I visited the island during Christmas, 1895, I found this butterfly abundant. It was flying about on the summits of the smaller hills. The Lord Howe form seems to differ slightly from the typical Australian form, in that it is lighter in colour and that the spots along the outer margins of both wings are larger and more numerous.

Family HESPERIDÆ.

APAUSTUS AGRAULIA, *Hewitson*.—One specimen taken by Mr. E. H. Saunders.